

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8057

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4761

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, EGEN, MX

SUBJ: CERDS AND MEXICAN/U.S. RELATIONS

REF: 1. MEXICO 4551, 2. STATE 109215

1. YESTERDAY NOON I CALLED ON RABASA AND DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS RE CERDS MAKING SOME OF THE SAME POINTS I HAD MADE WITH ZAPATA AND FOLLOWING CAREFULLY THE POINTS GIVEN IN DEPTTEL (REF 2).

2. RABASA LISTENED CAREFULLY AND SAID THAT WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT CERDS IS A KEY ELEMENT IN MEXICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND IT WAS ECHEVERRIA'S PRIME OBJECTIVE TO HAVE IT AT LEAST ALLUDED TO IN ALL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN WHICH MEXICO PARTICIPATED. HE RECOGNIZED THAT AN ELEMENT OF CONFRONTATION MAY HAVE GROWN UP. HE HIMSELF WOULD TAKE STEPS TO CAUTION MEXICAN DELEGATIONS TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE DISCREET AND ELASTIC. AT THE SAME TIME HE MAINTAINS STOUTLY THAT HIS WAS A TWO WAY STREET AND THAT IT WAS NOT LOGICAL FOR US TO SAY THAT IT AGREED WITH MOST OF THE PRINCIPLES OF CERDS BUT TO BE SO STIFF AND UNBENDING WHEN IT CAME TO PUTTING OUR NICE WORDS INTO ACTION. HE ASSERTED THAT HE HAD IN HIS POSSESSION THE COPY OF INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO ALL EMBASSIES ABROAD RELATING HOW WE SHOULD DEAL WITH THE CERDS PROBLEM.

3. HE OBSERVED THAT WHILE THIS INSTRUCTION SEEMED PARTICULARLY
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BADLY DRAFTED, WHICH MUST BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR OUR

PEOPLE IN THE FIELD TO FOLLOW, IT STILL SEEMED TO PROVIDE ROOM FOR ELASTICITY PERMITTING OUR PEOPLE TO BOW TO THE PRINCIPLES OF CERDS WHILE STILL MAINTAINING ITS NON-BINDING CHARACTER.

4. UNFORTUNATELY OUR CONVERSATION WHICH HAD ALREADY GONE ON FOR SOME TIME ON THE PRISONER ISSUE, WAS INTERRUPTED BY HIS NEXT APPOINTMENT AND WE WERE UNABLE TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER. I DID GET THE IMPRESSION HOWEVER THAT HE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO MAKE THE MEXICAN ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES SOMEWHAT LESS AGGRESSIVE ALTHOUGH HE DID STICK TO THE POLICY OF PUSHING CERDS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. HE SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED RE THE FORTHCOMING SEVENTH SPECIAL UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WAS DEVELOPING IN HIS OWN MIND THE TACTICS TO HANDLE THAT IN A MORE SKILLFUL MANNER.
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